

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Implant used in procedures for stiffening the vertebral column, the implant comprising an enclosed hollow body which includes at least a movable open interior receptacle and a movable open exterior receptacle,

said receptacles are oriented toward one another, and interlock, and are movable from a first position to a second spread apart position by inserting a filling material or by utilizing a filling material made of an elastomer in order to expand the hollow body, wherein the implant is bean shaped and has a front end and a rear end,

the front end is wedge shaped and includes top and bottom inclined wedge surfaces, and extends to a full height of the implant at least in the first position,

the front end ~~and~~ is insertable into a vertebral disc space, wherein the rear end comprises an implantation instrument attachment and is adapted for connection to a device used to generate a filling pressure, and

one of the receptacles fits within the other of the receptacles when the receptacles are in the first position.

2. (Previously Presented) Implant according to claim 1, wherein the implant comprises exactly two of the receptacles which interlock.

3. (Previously Presented) Implant according to claim 1, wherein the implant is connectable to a supply hose.

4. (Previously Presented) Implant according to claim 3, wherein an other end of the supply hose is adapted for connection to said device used to generate a filling pressure.
5. (Previously Presented) Implant according to claim 3, wherein the implantation instrument attachment comprises an opening for connecting the supply hose.
6. (Previously Presented) Implant according to claim 1, wherein the filling material comprises a tissue compatible, liquid or initially liquid phase, self hardening material.
7. (Previously Presented) Implant according to claim 1, wherein the hollow body is structured or coated on at least one part thereof.
8. (Previously Presented) Implant according to claim 1, wherein the receptacles are sealed with one another.
9. (Previously Presented) Implant according to claim 1, wherein the receptacles are adjustable relative to each other, whereby adjusting movement is limited to a certain area, which ensures a mutual overlapping of the receptacles.
10. (Currently Amended) Implant according to claim 9, wherein the adjusting movement between the receptacles is limited through a tightening screw in one of the receptacles catching in a slit in the other of the receptacles.

11. (Previously Presented) Implant according to claim 1, wherein the elastomer is filled into an inner portion of the hollow body.

12. (Previously Presented) Implant according to claim 11, wherein the elastomer at least partially fills the hollow body.

13. (Previously Presented) Implant according claim 11, wherein the elastomer is fitted to an inner side wall of the hollow body.

14. (Previously Presented) Implant according to claim 1, wherein inner surfaces of upper and bottom walls of the interlocking receptacles are generally planar and contact the elastomer when compressed.

15. (Previously Presented) Implant according to claim 1, wherein a hollow space is left below the elastomer, which is between the elastomer and a bottom wall of the interlocked receptacles.

16. (Previously Presented) Implant according to claim 1, wherein an airtight air bubble is incorporated in the elastomer.

17. (Currently Amended) Implant according to claim 1, wherein the hollow body is compressed to minimum height before implantation and [[a]] the device used to generate the filling pressure is attached to the hollow body to expand the hollow body after implantation.

18. (Previously Presented) Implant according to claim 1, wherein the front end is arranged on the exterior receptacle.

19. (Original) Implant according to claim 1, wherein the implant is manufactured from metal, polymer or a composite material.
20. (Original) Implant according to claim 19, wherein in manufacture using polymer or composite material, elements or material are incorporated in the implant that produce radiological shadows.
21. (Previously Presented) Implant according to claim 1, wherein the receptacles are pressurized and have a form of a partial cylinder or prism, whereby base and cover plates are included that are slightly arched and positioned parallel or slightly slanted relative to each other.
22. (Canceled).
23. (Previously Presented) Implant according to claim 1, wherein a surface of the implant is at least one of structured or coated.
24. (Currently Amended) Implant according to claim 17, wherein said device further comprises a clamping screw attached to the rear end.
25. (New) Implant according to claim 17, wherein one of the receptacles fits completely inside of the other of the receptacles when the receptacles are in the first position.